Import of dove?

811. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE toe pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is. a fact that import ot cloves has-been decentralised under the new Import-Export Policy; if so, what are the reasons for doing so and whether this item was earlier removed from OGL and its import canalised tthrough STC; if so, since when;

(b) whether the present and earlier decisions by the Ministry to change the policy were made in public interest; if so, which one of the two has served the purpose;

(c) what was the market price of cloves before and after canalisation and what is the price now and the quantity imported and distributed by STC;

(d) what is the annual domestic requirement of cloves and how it was met; and

(e) whether the decision to decana-lise th© item was leaked out as reported in 'Vyapar' of Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cloves had deen under Open General Licence for a long time.' Its import was "canalised through S.T.C. "on 26th September, 1986, as it was thought that canalisation would not only provide protection to the indigenous growers but also enable imports at the most economical prices through bulk purchases from the State Trading agehcies jn the supplying countries. However,, there were pro-, blems in imports and distribution With., consequential rise in prices. As the canalisation arrangement . did not prove to be 'Satisfactory, the Government decided to bring *status-quo ants.*

(c)- The wholesale prices of cloves were between Rs, 13,000 to Rs. 15,000 per quintal before canalisation and the price- rose upto Rs: 23,000 to * Rs. 24,000 per quintal during the^f period of canalisation. Imports made fcy STC during the period of canalisa- * tion amounted to 1293 MT out of which 725 MT were to arrive in April,-1988.

(d) The annual domestic require ment of cloves is around 3,000 MT Which is met partly iby the indigenous production and balance through im ports.

(e) No, Sir.

Court cases filed by Banks for recoyery of due ,

812. SHRI RAOOF Will the Minister of pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of court cases that have been filed, by the nat- . tionalised banks to recover dues from borrowers and what is the total amount involved until December, 1986;

(b) what is the amount written off as bad debts so far;

(c) whether Government or re jserve Bank of India thought of any regular .arrangement or machinery for collection of information or for re-; covery of debts and whether the same is periodically published;" and

(d) whether in view of this, Government contemplate the desirability cf special legislation to speed up recovery of dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE* DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AF FAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FIN ANCE {SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to.<d) The mformatioirfs-'fjeing collected and would'- be laid on the Table of Table of the House -fo th'e possible.